

**MIDDLE ATLANTIC  
Region 1  
HHS-N-276-2011-00003-C  
Ongoing Technology Upgrade of the Library at Pacific  
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## Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	3
Approaches and Interventions Used.....	4
Evaluation Activities.....	5
Problems or Barriers Encountered.....	6
Continuation Plans.....	7
Impact.....	8
Lessons Learned.....	9
Other.....	10
Attachment 1 – AR summary data: Subcontractor activities.....	11

## **Executive Summary**

The goal of this project was to enhance the capacity for education and medical research at the Pacific College of Oriental medicine in New York. To achieve this goal we decided to purchase several portable computers, both laptops and iPads for the library.

The acquisition of new portable computers was intended to serve several tasks: First, it would enhance access to medical and other educational resources in the library. Due to a lack of space our library has a limited number of workstations. When the stations are all occupied students have no access to computers. The project would increase the number of computers in our library without occupying more room for workstations, so we would be able to offer laptops or iPads to students when needed. The librarian would also receive a new laptop which would be utilized for teaching purposes.

Second, it would greatly assist the librarian in providing hands on classes and workshops, such as basic computer skills, health literacy, and online search of electronic medical databases and medical websites. Our library lacks a computer lab where computers are set up and allow students to follow along with the librarian's searches. The purchase of portable computers would make it possible for the librarian to organize instructing patrons in the library, as well as in the college's classrooms.

Third, the iPads' vast capabilities would greatly improve our collection. Downloadable medical texts as well as detailed illustrations and study guides on the iPad would help improve our collection by creating more electronic reference resources. In our small library virtual space would allow for greater storage capacity than physical space.

This project was developed to serve a wide variety of integrative medicine groups at the Pacific College of Oriental Medicine-New York that prepare specialists in oriental medicine, acupuncture, herbology, massage, and holistic nursing. Students, interns, doctors, and faculty utilize our library to research vital information on Western diseases, treatments, and advances in the field of integrative medicine for pedagogical and practical purposes. These groups would benefit the most from the introduction of computers and iPads to the library and thus were the target population.

We accomplished our three objectives, and our main goal. We made the Pacific College of Oriental medicine community aware of the project and it was met with enthusiasm. The librarian provided health literacy classes using newly purchased portable computers, and demonstrated iPad applications to students and teachers, who began to utilize them with sincere interest. The library staff started to loan portable computers to patrons in the library. The problem with the lack of workstations in the library was resolved. The library collection was enhanced. We are grateful to NN/LM MAR award program for this opportunity.

## **Minority Populations Served**

African Americans: Yes

American Indians/Alaska Natives: Yes

Asian Americans: No

Hispanics/Latinos: Yes

Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders: Yes

Other: No

## **Approaches and Interventions Used**

The plan was to purchase laptops and iPads, to download appropriate software, to test the laptops in the library, and then to give them to patrons as well as use them for teaching purposes. We made the community aware of the project. The librarian provided health literacy classes using portable computers, demonstrated iPad applications to students and teachers, and started to loan portable computers in the library.

With problems arising from delays in issuing a check and receiving computers from the vendor, our strategy was slightly altered. The librarian provided a "On-line search of electronic medical resources" class on January 12, 2012 for "Clinical research and design" class students (28 students) and "Introduction to associate internship" class students (22 students) on January 20th, 2012, and asked students to bring their laptops or iPads if they wished. As a result, the librarian was able to test how the concept of a hands-on class would work and evaluate the project. Also, the librarian conducted library orientation sessions on January 16th, 23rd and 24th ( 16 students), and completed a basic skills workshop on January 11th (5 students), and obtained the students' and teachers' opinions regarding hands-on classes, and utilization of portable computers. Patrons' opinions of the experience were positive.

Further librarian instruction classes were offered with newly purchased portable computers on March 1st (10 students), March 14th (15 teachers and administrators), March 29th (15 teachers), April 11th (7 students). Questionnaires were also provided to students and teachers during the March and April. Feedback was positive.

Purchasing iPads was a simpler process, because we contacted the Apple Company directly. However, there was still a delay because we had to order a separate check from our accounting department. Time was also spent preparing for the accreditation visit in February. Further delays were caused by the necessity for the librarian, students and teachers to double check the list of iPad apps to be sure that only software that is useful to our patrons would be purchased.

By the end of February we Bought 5 iPads and downloaded several applications (apps), such as BenCao, TCMClinicaid, Acupressure, Trigger Points, Auricular Acupuncture, Acupuncture Points as well as various anatomy and physiology apps. The librarian demonstrated these apps to students and faculty members during health literacy classes, departmental meetings, and the library committee meeting.

The purchase of portable computers, and the award from NN/LM MAR was announced through the college's email and the Library Newsletter.

## Evaluation Activities

The librarian provided questionnaires during the following classes:

On line search of medical databases for "Clinical research and design" class students on January 12th (28 students).

On line search of medical databases for "Introduction to associate internship" class students on January 20th (22 students).

On-line search of medical databases on March 1st (10 students) , and on April 11th (7 students) provided in the library for those who signed up.

Overview of the library's electronic resources during the acupuncture departmental meeting on March 14th (15 teachers).

Overview of the library's electronic resources during the Library committee meeting. On March 29th (15 teachers and administrators).

The librarian provided classes using laptops and iPads, demonstrated iPad applications for professors and administration officers and students, and obtained positive feedback

.Students indicated that it helped to have portable computers during class, stating that it was useful to follow along with the librarian's searches. The librarians' and teachers' experiences showed that students remembered more after a hands-on class than after a regular presentation.

Students and teachers who participated in the Library's orientations (16 patrons), and basic computer skills workshop (5 students) also provided their positive feedback regarding the utilization of portable computers. Teachers were impressed with the capability of iPad applications. They decided to use applications during their own classes to assist with teaching.

2. The librarian and work study students recorded the number of patrons in the library from December 2011 until the end of the project. The record indicates, that during peak time, which is 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. , the demand for computers increased. During this period of increased demand we did not have enough workstations in the library to accommodate patrons, and 5-8 patrons would leave the library because they did not want to wait for a workstation. Now we have enough laptops to provide to our patrons at any time.

3. Before the new HP laptop arrived, the librarian's laptop was malfunctioning. The new laptop ensured that all previous files were saved, and provided the librarian with the capacity to give classes using superior hardware and software.

Laptops and iPads are in use by students, clinic interns, supervisors, and teachers.

We believe that we met our objectives and accomplished our goals. The project was met with enthusiasm by students, teachers, and the administration. We are grateful for the award opportunity from the NN/LM MAR.

## **Problems or Barriers Encountered**

We encountered a problem with getting a check from the college's accounting department on time. Another problem that we experienced was the delay of our purchase caused by the vendor, which changed the preliminary project schedule.

## **Continuation Plans**

New portable computers will help the librarian continue to provide hands on 'On -line search of electronic medical database's' classes, library orientations, and workshops. Teachers will continue to take iPads to classes to use helpful applications for teaching. Library patrons will utilize iPads to study in the library. Portable computers will be given to patrons in the library who are unable to use workstations.

## **Impact**

The library's goal is to create an academic environment where students and faculty have access to health information that enhances their pedagogical and educational experience. However, with the limited number of library computers', the small size of the library, and our limited print collection, we were unable to meet the needs of students.

With the purchase of new portable computers we solved this problem. The new portable computers are ready for use and easily accessible to patrons who need them. The librarian is able to provide hands on health literacy classes using laptops and iPads, which create better educational outcomes than standard classes. In addition we enhanced our electronic collection tremendously by downloading iPad applications useful to many areas of study, such as bioscience, acupuncture, acupressure, reflexology, oriental herbs, massage, and orthopedic/sports. We did not expect iPads to be so popular among students and teachers. The librarian, students and teachers frequently use apps as aids in the educational process. We consider this project to have been a great success.



## **Lessons Learned**

We encountered a problem with getting a check from the college's accounting department in time. Another problem that we experienced was the delay of our purchase caused by the vendor, which changed the preliminary project schedule. These problems taught us that a short time frame is troublesome for project implementation.

## Other

N/A

**Attachment 1: AR summary data: Subcontractor activities**